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Washington Merry-Go-Round

President Watching Dodd Probe

By Drew Pearson

President Johnson is keeping a wary eye on the investigation of the man who nominated him for President in 1960 and came near becoming his Vice President in 1964—Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.).

The President has asked to see the FBI summaries on the Dodd investigation. Even a complaint Pearson about a mailing mishap involving Dodd documents was called to his attention.

My associate, Jack Anderson, mailed some documents to Connecticut to be checked out. He made two or three phone calls to Connecticut to report the documents were coming.

The documents were placed in a brown manila envelope, which was carefully sealed. Then to make it doubly secure, the seal was taped down with Scotch tape. Yet the envelope arrived at the Washington, D.C., post office, two miles away, unsealed.

Postmaster General Larry O'Brien called the incident to the President's attention in a private "memorandum to the President," dated May 10, 1966.

"Columnist Jack Anderson reported on April 23," O'Brien

wrote, "that a letter he had sent to Hartford, Conn., arrived with a notation: 'Received unsealed at Washington, D.C.' The large envelope contained matters pertaining to Senator Dodd, Anderson said.

"An investigation by postal inspectors revealed that the letter had apparently been poorly sealed, although Anderson's secretary denied this.

"After the investigation, Anderson said he believed the FBI opened his mail. Anderson thinks the letter was taken from a collection sack by FBI agents after it was deposited by his secretary in the lobby of the office building."

Note—The FBI will probably now investigate how this column got a copy of Postmaster General O'Brien's private memo to the President.

Books and Politics

California education leaders have run across the interesting fact that the chief textbook publisher of California, Franklin Press, printed election campaign literature for Max Rafferty, the fundamentalist educator, when he campaigned to become California Superintendent of Instruction.

Rafferty paid Franklin Press \$18,580.84 for printing his literature. Franklin Press gets a major portion of the \$14,500,000 textbook order for 1966 from the public schools of California.

The disclosure has touched

off moves to ascertain whether textbook publishers have been contributing to Rafferty's or other educators' campaigns.

Rafferty was elected in 1962 in the hottest campaign ever staged for a California school superintendent, on a platform to take the schools back to old-fashioned "readin', writin' and 'rithmetic."

Right-wing organizations all over the state supported him. Some of his radio commercials were tagged on after the commercials of Dr. Ross's Dog Food, sponsored by one of the chief right wingers of the Far West, the late Dallas Lewis, who left \$1 million to the John Birch Society, \$2 million to right-wing commentator Dan Smoot, and \$1 million to Pepperdine College on condition it give Dan Smoot an honorary degree. This was rejected.

P. A. Doheny, the California oil man, put up \$11,000 for Rafferty's campaign. Doheny is the son of the famous Doheny who was exposed in the Teapot Dome scandal for giving a \$100,000 bribe to Secretary of the Interior Albert K. Fall, in the Harding Administration.

Loose Campaign Funds

Apparently Rafferty had some difficulty compiling his list of contributors and expenses because he asked the Los Angeles Superior Court to

give him two delays, so his statement was filed three months late—March 23, 1963.

California educators have also just discovered that Dr. Everett T. Calvert, Rafferty's assistant, who ran against Rafferty in the 1962 primary but supported him in the run-off, has never filed his campaign expenses and list of contributors either for 1962 or 1958, when he was also a candidate. This would make him ineligible to hold office or run again.

Dr. Calvert is former editor of the American Book Company and it has been reported that both he and Rafferty received political contributions from publishers.

As a result, Willard Harper, a California school teacher now opposing Rafferty for reelection, is filing a writ of prohibition before the Superior Court this week asking that both Rafferty and Calvert be prohibited from soliciting or receiving campaign funds from book publishers selling books to the state.

Capital Chaff

When Milton Shapp, long-shot Democratic candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, finally won that nomination, Vice President Humphrey called to say, "There are only two men who predicted your victory—Drew Pearson and Hubert Humphrey." . . . Rev. © 1966, Bell-McClure Syndicate, Inc.